SHARP 2019

Amherst, Massachusetts

INDIGENEITY, NATIONHOOD, AND MIGRATIONS OF THE BOOK

The Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst
July 15 to 19, 2019

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF AUTHORSHIP, READING & PUBLISHING

CALL FOR PAPERS

Indigeneity, Nationhood, and Migrations of the Book

We are pleased to invite submissions for the 27th annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP), to be held in Amherst, Massachusetts—primarily at the University of Massachusetts—from Monday, 15 July, to Thursday, 18 July 2019, with optional book-historical excursions on 19 July. (Details on pre- and post-conference activities will follow.) The conference theme is "Indigeneity, Nationhood, and Migrations of the Book."

In the *West-Eastern Divan* (1819), a collection of German poetry inspired by the medieval Persian author Hafez, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe advised, "If the poet you'd understand / Go you must in the poet's land." Later in that century, American poet and Amherst native Emily Dickinson said, "I see—New Englandly—" but lauded the power of the book "To take us Lands away."

What is the role of place in book history: from "native tongue" to "Native writing," author's homeland to author's house, sites of reading to websites? Print capitalism has been adduced as a factor in the consolidation of vernaculars and national literatures and the rise of the national imaginary from Europe to its colonial regimes. Rather than viewing the relation between indigenous and European communication practices as a hierarchical and sequential one of center and periphery—"literacy" replacing "illiteracy" (whether dismissed as "inferior" or eulogized as "authentic")—what could we learn by instead exploring it as one of encounter and continuing evolution?



Key Dates

September 15, 2018 - Submissions Open
November 30, 2018 – Abstracts Due
mid-February 2019 – Notifications Sent
March 2019 — Registration Open



Images by Barry Moser, design for Town of Amherst flag

Consider the setting for SHARP19: New England—the very name connoting old and new "worlds"—was at once native land for the original inhabitants, with their established social and communication systems, and a site in which European settlers, rather than simply replicating the homeland (making a "new" England), created out of many sources and influences a different, distinctly American culture. Successive generations of arrivals—from captive Africans and indentured Asians to voluntary, if often unwelcome, immigrants—writing in their mother tongues or in English, transformed the very notion of an "American" language and literature. Alfred Kazin, son of Yiddish-speaking immigrants from Russia, provocatively entitled his pioneering 1942 study of modern American prose, *On Native Grounds*. How have literacy and print functioned here and around the world on a spectrum including oppression, resistance, assimilation, and dialogue?

We invite book historians to train their eyes on indigenous cultural practices, national literatures, colonized and colonizing texts, landscapes and sites of literary life, and textual migration and exchange in a global context. — continues

SHARP 2019 c/o JAMES WALD, HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE, and JAMES R. KELLY, UMASS AMHERST
CONTACT EMAIL: sharpamherst@gmail.comTWITTER: @SHARP_2019 #SHARP19 WEB: http://www.sharp2019.com/





Areas of inquiry may include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- The indigenous book: concepts, definitions, evolution
- Making marks to new media: varieties of communicative practice
- Cross-cultural encounters, diglossia, heteroglossia, and cultural hybridity
- The uses of print by colonizers and colonized
- Decolonizing book history, libraries, and archives

- The formation and material expression of national literatures
- Meanings and manifestations of the vernacular: national languages, lexica, dictionaries
- Immigration, identity, publication, and ethnic/national literatures
- The national: canon formation, the organization of academic knowledge, and library cataloguing
- Gender, sexuality, textuality, and the construction of the national

- Materiality and the surface of the text from petroglyphs to pixels
- Media migrations: manuscript, print, analog, digital
- National books, translation, circulation, and globalization
- Literary landmarks: sites of creation, curation, fandom, and cultural pilgrimage

Submissions

Although engagement with the conference theme is desirable, SHARP welcomes paper and panel proposals (preference generally accorded to the latter) on any topic related to the global history of the book in the broadest sense of the field.

Proposals must be submitted electronically via our Open Conference System. The link will go live September 15th: http://www.sharpweb.org/ocs/

Online submission process opens: **15 September 2018**

Online submission process closes: **30 November 2018**

Acceptances announced: **Mid-February 2019**

Registration opens: **March 2019**

SHARP sessions are generally 90 minutes long, composed of three 20-minute papers plus a discussion period.

Proposals for individual papers must include a title, an abstract (max. 250 words), and a short biography of the presenter (max. 100 words). Proposals for full panels must include a panel title and a panel abstract (max. 250 words) that outlines the main theme(s) of the panel. In addition, the proposal must include individual titles, abstracts (max. 250 words), and short biographies (max. 100 words) for each participant in the panel.

We also encourage proposals for lightning talks, posters, and digital project demonstrations. These must include a title, abstract (max. 250 words), and short biography (max. 100 words) for presenters. Basic audio-visual technology will be provided for sessions, but digital project presenters are encouraged to bring their own laptop, as this session will take the form of a poster session-styled Digital Projects Showcase.

We are pleased to welcome proposals in all languages of the SHARP community; note, however, that the chief working language of most gatherings has been English.

Membership

Membership is not necessary for the submission of a proposal but those whose proposals are accepted must be SHARP members by the time of conference registration: http://www.sharpweb.org/main/join/

Funding

SHARP can provide a limited number of travel grants to graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and independent scholars. Candidates will apply as part of the proposal submission process.